

The OP En Digest

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February 21-25, 2022

The Pic of the Week

The Apartment building in Kyiv damaged by debris of a Russian missile in the early hours of February 25. The missile was destroyed by the Ukrainian air defense.

War of Terror

Russian forces keep indiscriminately shelling and barraging non-military objects in many towns and cities of Ukraine causing lots of civilian casualties. Several times private dwellings were hit in various locations. Another kindergarten was under fire in the Donbas region. Fortunately, the children were not hurt. Those are not accidents but deliberate actions aimed at terrorizing people. It is a rude violation of international laws and norms of warfare.

Learn more [here](#).

The Pick of the Week

Ukraine at war

More effective help needed

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine is a brutal war of aggression in the middle of Europe, a war against European security order, as well as international peace and security more broadly.

What you need to know

- Russia wages a total war. Recent events indicate that civil infrastructure and objects, including kindergartens, schools, hospitals, paramedics and ambulance crews are considered to be legitimate targets by Russian leadership.
- Russia's indiscriminate shelling and strikes on civilian objects amount to war crimes and violation of the Rome Statute. Ukraine collects materials and will send them to the Hague as soon as possible.

How you can help

- Current level of sanctions is still insufficient to stop Russian aggression. We need more severe sanctions, more defensive weapons, more financial support, more humanitarian support. Ukraine will defend itself and will not fall. We need the world to help us stop Putin.
- Personal sanctions against top Russian officials look rather symbolic for now
- We look forward to the international community pressing further. More harsh and urgent actions are needed. Cutting off SWIFT, full isolation of Russia, oil embargo – all options should be on the table to stop the aggression.
- Ukraine needs any and every international effort and commitment to defend itself without delays. Deepest concerns do not stop tanks.
- The lawless aggression against our state enables further similar actions elsewhere.
- Ukraine needs a massive lend-lease program without exemptions including long-range air and missile defense and anti-armor systems.
- Helping people stay safe in their own country is more effective than preventing a humanitarian crisis and taking in refugees.

Learn more [here](#) and [here](#).

Nuclear blackmail

The Chernobyl power plant is under Russian military control.

What you need to know

- As a result of heavy fighting, the Russian troops seized the Chernobyl power plant including the Shelter Structure.
- Gamma radiation exceeding the control levels in the exclusion zone was recorded.
- The movement of numerous heavy military equipment through the exclusion zone has released contaminated radioactive dust into the air due to the topsoil level breaking.
- The condition of nuclear facilities and other Chernobyl facilities is unchanged.

Why it matters

- The Russian government might use control over the Chernobyl zone to threaten Ukraine and the whole Europe with massive contamination.
- Likewise, underqualified treatment with the object can cause major nuclear events.

Learn more [here](#) and [here](#).

Rogue State Statement

The Russians fired on two foreign ships.

What you need to know

- According to the Pivdennyi Traffic Control Post and the Port Captain's Service of the Southern Branch of the AMPU State Enterprise, a missile hit the stern of the NAMURA QUEEN vessel.
- The ship flying the flag of Panama was heading to the port Pivdennyi to load grain. Part of the equipment has been disabled. A fire broke out on the ship, a fire tow was called. The vessel was rescued and stayed afloat.
- Also, according to the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, 12 kilometers from the port of the Southern Ship of the Russian Navy ship fired a missile in

a Moldovan bunker MILLENNIUM SPIRIT. There is currently no connection with the ship.

Why it matters

- Russia is blocking Ukrainian seaports to ruin its economy.
- This is a rude violation of international law and an attack on the freedom of navigation which is one of its sacred principles
- In 2020, Ukrainian seaports handled over 158 million tons of cargo. The export cargo transshipment share was 77.3%. The main cargo types are grain (30.2%), ore (27.8%), and ferrous metals (10.4%).
- The decline in Ukrainian exports may lead to shortages and rising prices for certain products, including food, in European and world markets. In particular - for end users in partner countries. Thus, the Russian invasion of Ukraine is affecting international markets and poses a direct threat to global food security, because Ukraine's exports feeds approximately 332 million people around the globe.

Learn more [here](#) and [here](#).

National Banking Withstanding

The national banking system is mobilized and functioning.

What you need to know

- The National Bank of Ukraine has decided to open a special account to raise funds to support the Armed Forces of Ukraine.
- The Russian banks are not allowed to work in Ukraine any more.
- Currently, all non-cash payments are enabled without restrictions, including the POS-terminals and retail outlets. EPS works smoothly.
- Numerous states and international bodies are helping Ukraine to stabilize its bank system.

Why it matters

- The stable financing sector increases sustainability and defense capabilities.

Learn more [here](#) and [here](#).

The National Healthcare proves effective

The Ministry of Health of Ukraine is providing uninterrupted supply of medicines to citizens, and the hospitals work 24/7.

What you need to know

- Currently there are enough stocks of medicines in the warehouses for the smooth operation of pharmacies and the supply of medicines to hospitals.
- In some places where there is active fighting and shelling, some pharmacies have not opened. This is due to the safety and access of pharmacy workers. But pharmacies located in health care facilities do operate and dispense medicines.
- The main domestic pharmaceutical plants continue to operate as usual.
- The Affordable Medicines Program also works without changes.
- Any prescriptions are temporarily canceled.

Why it matters

- The healthcare system's effective work is a core element of preventing humanitarian catastrophe.

Learn more [here](#).

Quote of the week

"When bombs fall in Kyiv, this happens in Europe, not only in Ukraine. When missiles kill our people, it's the death of all Europeans. Require more protection for Europe, more protection for Ukraine - as part of a democratic world."

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy addressing citizens of Europe.